

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending currently pending in this application. For the purpose of examination of this application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 3-5 for further prosecution at this time. The basis for Applicants' traversal is that there is no undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant therefore respectfully requests examination of all currently pending claims.

Furthermore, Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 15 are the linking claims. Pursuit to Section 809 of MPEP,

[t]he linking claims must be examined with, and thus are considered part of, the invention elected. When all claims directed to the elected invention are allowable, should any linking claim be allowable, the restriction requirement between the linked inventions must be withdrawn. Any claim(s) directed to the nonelected invention(s), previously withdrawn from consideration, which depends from or requires all the limitations of the allowable linking claim must be rejoined and will be fully examined for patentability.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 15 must be examined with, and thus are considered as part of the elected invention, at this time. Should any of Claims 1, 2, 6-9 or 15 be found allowable, the restriction requirement between the linked inventions II, III, IV and V must be withdrawn, and Claims 10-14 must be rejoined and be fully examined for patentability.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Ping Wang, M.D. (Reg. No. 48,328) at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ping Wang', is written over a horizontal line.

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